

**LUNENBURG BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 3, 2011**

The Board of Health met at 7:00 pm at the Ritter Memorial Building

Present: Chairman Troy Daniels, Dave Shea, George Emond, Jack Rabbitt and Perry Jewell as well as Lunenburg Board of Health Agent Jim Garreffi

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

On motion by Jewell and second by Shea, the following minutes were approved:

September 19, 2011

All in favor.

**TITLE 5 INSPECTION REPORTS ACKNOWLEDGED:**

220 Page Street (foreclosure) - Fail  
197 Leominster Road

**SEPTIC PERMITS SIGNED:**

331 Northfield Road

**74 HIGHLAND STREET - SCHNEPF**

Andrea Schnepf, the owner of the property, met with the Board to request permission for a secondary water source on her property. Currently the property is served through public water. What is being proposed is an agricultural well for irrigation and the livestock barn. The residence will continue to be served by public water. The well and irrigation system is being designed by the Department of Agriculture pursuant to a grant received through NRCS. Placement of the well will be decided as a part of the design plan being prepared by NRCS. Approval of the well site will be done when a well permit is applied for through Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.

On Motion by Emond and second by Daniels request approved. All in favor.

A letter will be prepared, if needed, granting approval for a second water source.

**POTENTIAL ARSENIC IN PRIVATE WELLS**

A study was release by DEP, in the spring of this year, regarding arsenic and uranium in private drinking wells. The study indicated that Lunenburg was an area of concern due to the geological makeup of our Town.

Perry Jewell discussed some of the research that he had done on this subject and provided the members of the board with additional information of the hazards of arsenic in drinking water. One area of particular concern is the residences that border Lake Shirley.

Agent Jim Garreffi was also able to provide information as to the history of deep wells within our town. Shallow, gravel wells, like those used for our public water supply to not appear to have a potential for arsenic. Agent Garreffi advised that there are many variables as to where arsenic may be found. Mr. Garreffi suggested that education of our residents is important. Private well quality is the responsibility of the homeowner. Many wells in Lunenburg have not been tested recently or at all. He further stated that the use of a State Certified Lab was important.

Jack Rabbitt suggest that a regulation be created that would require well testing on conveyance similar to what is done in Townsend.

Dave Shea stated that he would like the Board to provide information to residents on a regular basis. This is a topic that could be part of that program. Mr. Shea further stated that he would like to see public awareness about this issue and how to accomplish a well test. He stated that he feels that it is important that our residents be aware that private wells are the responsibility of the owner, that wells should be tested periodically and that private wells should meet current quality standards.

After discussion it was decided that more information and discussion was necessary and would take place at a later time.

### **SEPTIC DESTRUCTION PERMIT**

In December of 2010 a septic destruction permit was drafted by the Board. At that time, it was a concern of the board that upon connection to sewer, the board had no information on how and when the septic system was destroyed. Chairman Daniels spoke with the Chair of the Sewer Commission. It was agreed that our septic destruction permit would be given to the installers when the permit for connection was obtained. In this way, the Board of Health would know the details of septic destruction.

George Emond provided some history regarding the current process for septic destruction. When sewer was first installed in Town, Jack Rodriquenz was appointed an agent on an ongoing basis. The purpose of this was to oversee the destruction of the septic system at the time of connection and it made sense that all the inspections be completed at one time. Currently, this inspection is being carried out by Cory Dowd of the sewer department.

Chairman Daniels advised that the Sewer Department is already inspecting on behalf of the Board of Health. Perry Jewell would like the opportunity to review the inspection process with Jack Rodriquenz. Currently, Mr. Rodriquenz would have to sign off on Cory Dowd inspections or Mr. Dowd would have to also be appointed an agent.

After discussion and on Motion by Jewell and second by Shea, the Board accepted the permit currently being used by the sewer commission for any new sewer connections as well as the Board of Health Destruction Permit, to be signed off by Jack Rodriquenz. All in favor.

### **SCHEDULE OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS**

Currently, Board of Health meeting are held on the first and third Mondays of the month. Administrative Assistant, Andrea Schnepf stated that if there is a conflict due to a holiday, the meeting is not rescheduled. George Emond stated that due to the changes in the economy and the slump in new construction, there has not always been a need to hold two meeting in a month. Chairman Daniels suggested that we post one meeting a month, with a second meeting added if necessary.

George Emond had no objection to one meeting a month, Perry Jewell was comfortable with two a month, Jack Rabbit suggested one meeting and one workshop, Dave Shea was comfortable with either. After discussion it was decided that one meeting a month would be posted for the first Monday and additional meetings added as necessary.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH RIGHT TO ENTRY**

The Select Board made an inquiry as to whether or not the Board of Health had the right to enter a property. Chairman Daniels provided information to the board with regard to this inquiry. Jim Garreffi also provided information.

George Emond believes that under certain circumstances the Board of Health can enter such as no water, power or septic/sewer that would make a residence uninhabitable. Jim Garreffi stated that permission from the owner or occupant is required to enter the property. However, if a violation can be view from the street or through an open door, he would be able to issue a citation. With regard to the Select Boards inquiry, under those circumstances, the Board of Health does not have the right to enter without first obtaining a warrant.

## **NASHOBA ASSOCIATED BOARDS OF HEALTH**

Agent, Jim Garreffi was in attendance for this discussion. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Garreffi sent information with regard to the services that Nashoba provides. Chairman Daniels asked for questions from the rest of the board.

Perry Jewell asked about the differences between Nashoba Nursing and Hospice and Nashoba Associated Boards of Health Nursing. Mr. Garreffi stated that Nashoba Nursing and Hospice is a fee for service entity. They must look for clients within the Nashoba Communities. Nashoba Associated Board of Health Nursing provides a Town Nurse and nursing services by assessment. There were no further questions.

## **COMPLAINT LOG**

It was requested that a complaint log be kept for all complaints made to the Board of Health office. After discussion, it was decided that the log would be electronic form and sent to board members weekly by the Board of Health office.

## **PERSONNEL**

Chairman Daniels stated that Town Administrator Kerry Speidel has requested a copy of the job description of the Board of Health Administrative Assistant. This is being doing as a town wide review and updating of job descriptions. Administrative Assistant, Andrea Schnepf, was asked to provide her job description with any necessary comments.

## **BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS**

It was acknowledged that the Board of Health Regulations had not been reviewed or updated in some time. It was decided that this would be a project for future meetings or work sessions.

## **SPECIAL FUND ACCOUNTS FOR BOARD OF HEALTH**

There was a question raised as to the final disposition of the monies left in the H1N1 Grant Account. Administrative Assistant, Andrea Schnepf, stated that the time to spend the monies out of the H1N1 account has passed and the unused funds must be returned. As of this point, there has been no request from Region 2 for the return of the funds. Ms. Schnepf will convey this information to the Town Account's Office. When Ms. Schnepf has a mechanism for the return of the remaining funds, they will be sent.

## **BOARD OF HEALTH WEBSITE**

Chairman Daniels wanted to call the Board's attention to the changes made to the Board of Health Website. There have been many new additions and much more information added to assist our residents.

## **LUNENBURG SCHOOL SYSTEM GREEN PROJECTS**

Andrea Schnepf reported that back in the late winter of this year she and her partner had arranged for the school to partner with a grant program that allowed unused school space to be used for hydroponic gardening. Superintendent Loxi Calms has reported that they are now ready to bring this system up. The food from the hydroponic garden will be used to supply the schools with fresh vegetables. Ms. Calms further stated that it is possible that vegetables from the hydroponic garden will be represented at next year's farmer's market. The question was raised as to whether this would be an approved food source. Our food service inspector will be contacted to confirm this.

In addition, it was also reported by Ms. Calms that the schools are also participating in worm farms. The refuse from the cafeteria is being used as well as straw and newspaper. The worms produce compost that can be sold or used in an outdoor garden. Although they are operating under conditional waivers, the school system has been notified that they must keep the area free of flies and animals that could carry rabies.

Ms. Calms advised that the school system will continue to keep the Board apprised of their progress.

On motion by Emond second by Rabbitt, the next meeting will be on Monday, November 7, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at the Ritter Memorial Building

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.